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E.O. 11652: N/A SNAR, GW TAGS: SNAR, GW

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC COUNCIL DRUG REVIEW

REF: BONN 10312

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM DAVID ERNST (S/NM)

- 1) AMBASSADOR VANCE IS IN AFRICA OCCUPIED WITH U.S.-ZAIRE RELATIONS. WE NEVERTHELESS WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MESSAGE ON THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL DRUG REVIEW.
- 2) WE AGREE THAT THE USG SHOULD BE PAYING GREATER ATTENTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEMAND SIDE OF DRUG ABUSE WHILE NOT DIMINISHING OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE ILLICIT SUPPLIES. THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL REVIEW HAS A SUBGROUP (IN WHICH WE ARE PARTICIPATING) LOOKING AT THIS QUESTION. WE EXPECT A STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL DEMAND PROGRAM TO RESULT.

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3) THERE ARE MANY IN THE USG THAT FULLY SUPPORT INCLUDING ALCOHOL IN "DRUG" PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL REVIEW WILL NOT INCLUDE ALCOHOL ABUSE, NOR CAN IT BE EXPECTED THAT ALCOHOL PROBLEMS WILL BE ADDED TO THE CCINC MANDATE. EVEN ON QUESTIONS OF DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS

FOR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OVERSEAS, ALCOHOL IS, FOR THE MOMENT, HANDLED SEPARATELY. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW SEEKING AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH IN THE MEDICAL DIVISION AN OFFICE OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. SINCE ALCOHOL ABUSE ALREADY FALLS UNDER THAT DIVISION, WE WOULD EXPECT THE TWO PROGRAMS TO DRAW TOGETHER OVER TIME.

4) THE ABOVE NOTWITHSTANDING, WE RECOGNIZE HOW USG SEPARATION OF ALCOHOL FROM OTHER DRUGS CAN BE CONFUSING FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHOSE COOPERATION WE SEEK. ONCE THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL REVIEW IS COMPLETED WE IN S/NM WILL SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF OVERSEAS DEMAND PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH THOSE USG ELEMENTS CONCERNED WITH ALCOHOL ABUSE. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMING MAY PERMIT US TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISE EVEN THOUGH, FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES, THE PROGRAMS REMAIN SEPARATE AND DISTINCT. KISSINGER

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